(b) India's production, export and the last three years, as available, are given as domestic consumption of pepper during the under :

('000 tonnes)

| Year | Production (Trade Estimate) | Eport | Domestic Consumption |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1990-91 . . . . . | 55.0 | 30.0 | 25.0 |
| 1991-92 . . . . . | 60.0 | 20.5 | 39.5 |
| 1992-93 . . . . . | 55.0 | 23.8 | 31.2 |

(c) The lowest and highest prices of pepper (MG-1) in Cochin market of Kerala are given as under :

(Rs. per kg.)

| Year | Lowest | Highest |
|---|---|---|
| 1990-91 . . . . . | 28.38 | 42.00 |
| 1991-92 . . . . . | 27.05 | 38.38 |
| 1992-93 . . . . . | 26.13 | 32.88 |
| 1993-94 . . . . . | | |
| (upto Jan. 1994) . . . . . | 26.63 | 47.00 |

(d) In order to improve pepper cultivation in the country, the Government has undertaken various development programmes which include production and distribution of planting material; rehablitation of old pepper gardens; distribution of input kits; adoption of plant protection measures against quick wilt disease; eradication of 'Little Leaf' disease; field demonstration plots; large scale demonstartion of high production technology; and area expansion programme. Besides Spices Board of India is also supplementing these activities with a number of schemes.

(e) In order to enable the growers to realise a remunerative price, the Government has introduced the market intervention scheme. Besides, since domestic prices of pepper are largely influenced by the exports of the Commodity, efforts are made to step-up the exports through export promotion measures undertaken by Spices Board of India.

**Assistance for Emergency Relief Operation**

1572. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Karnataka had made a request for the release of provisional central assistance amounting to Rs. 60 crores on account of emergency relief operations undertaken by the State Government during the natural calamity caused by incessant and heavy rainfalls and flashfloods in October, 1993;

(b) whether the Centre is aware that the State Government had to resort to drawal of funds from other equally essential allocations, to tide over the calamity situation; and

(c) whether the Centre would consider immediate release of assistance as sought for

to ease the financial stringency of the State Government ?

THE MINSTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) Government of Karnataka has submitted a Memorandum seeking Central assistance of atleast Rs. 200.00 crores for relief and rehablitation measures in the wake of floods in October, 1993.

(b) The expenditure on relief operations reported by the State Government exceeds the corpus of the State's Calamity Relief Fund.

(c) Government of India has released two instalments of Central share of Calamity Relief Fund amounting to Rs. 10.125 crores for the years 1994-95 in advance to enable the State Government to undertake relief and rehablitation measures.

**Amendment of Central Cooperative Act**

1573. SHRI IQBAL SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government is planning to amend the Central Cooperative Act to reduce its control over cooperative societies and ensure further democratisation of their activities;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor ; and

(c) whether Government is committed to encouraging the cooperative movement to expand their activities in such a way as to be able to survive in the new competitive environment ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It has been decided to amend Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 1984 in order to reduce control over Multi-State Cooperative Societies and to ensure autonomous functioning of such societies. The Act is being re-formulated on the lines of the recommendations of committee on, "Model Cooperatives Act". It is envisaged to reduce control in areas of : Supersession of Managing Committees; powers to issue directives; appointment of Chief Executives etc.

(c) Yes, Sir.

**Financial Allocation for Promotion and Development of Oil Seeds**

1574. SHRI M. A. BABY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the financial allocation being made for the promotion and development of different oil seeds, with details of each category, during the last five years;

(b) whether coconut has been declared as on oil seed and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the special financial allocation being made for the promotion, development and research of coconut following it being declared as oil seed with details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) Central allocation for the different oil seeds programmes during last five years were :

| Year | Name of Programme | Central Allocation (Rs. in Crore) |
|---|---|---|
| 1988-89 | NODP | 16.50 |
| | OPTP | 36.00 |
| 1989-90 | NODP | 16.50 |
| | OPTP | 36.00 |
| 1990-91 | OPP | 54.00 |
| 1991-92 | OPP | 64.00 |
| 1992-93 | OPP | 73.00 |